

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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*Office of the State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: February 6, 2008**  
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## **Fire Fatalities Down 25% in 2007**

State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick is pleased to announce a 25% reduction in the number of fire fatalities reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal in 2007 compared to the previous year. The leading cause remains smoking-related fires, representing nearly 20% of the reported fire deaths over the past five years.

“Fires that cause deaths are of great concern to the fire service. Tragically, most fire fatalities occur in homes – the one place people tend to feel the safest. We also believe that many of these deaths are preventable. By taking some time to eliminate fire hazards and ensure smoke alarms are working in your home, you can significantly increase the safety for you and your family,” says State Fire Marshal Matlick.

For additional information on fire fatalities and fire safety, please visit the Office of the State Fire Marshal website at [www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm).

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*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.*

**PREVENT FIRES**  
**IT'S YOUR JOB!**